

# **APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM OREGON HOUSE DELEGATION FISCAL YEAR 2010**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 13, 2009**

***PLEASE NOTE: As required by the House Appropriations Committee, all requests will be made public on the requesting Member's website.***

**1. Project Title:** Sandy River/Oregon National Historic Trail

**2. Organization Name and address:**

Grant Recipient:  
Bureau of Land Management  
Salem District Office  
1717 Fabry Rd. SE  
Salem, Oregon 97306  
(503) 375-5646

Requesting Organization:  
Western Rivers Conservancy  
71 SW Oak St. #100  
Portland, OR 97204  
(503)241-0151

**3. Primary Contact name, phone number, mobile phone number, fax number and email:** Dick Todd, Realty Specialist, Salem District, BLM

(503)375-5664 – [Dick\\_Todd@blm.gov](mailto:Dick_Todd@blm.gov)

Sue Doroff, Vice President, Western Rivers Conservancy  
(503)241-0151 x12 – [sdoroff@westernrivers.org](mailto:sdoroff@westernrivers.org)

**4. Project Location Address (if different from Organization):**

Sandy River, Clackamas County, Oregon

**5. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities, and whether it is a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity:**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) owns and manages thousands of acres of land in the Sandy River basin. The BLM has been acquiring land in the Sandy basin in partnership with Western Rivers Conservancy since 2001. Western Rivers Conservancy, a Portland, OR based non-profit organization, protects outstanding river ecosystems in the western United States. A staff of thirteen people acquires land to conserve critical habitat, provide for compatible public use and enjoyment and cooperate with other agencies and organizations to secure the health of the whole ecosystem.

**6. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (please keep to 500 words or less.)**

Funding is requested for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to acquire and conserve property in the Sandy River basin, OR. Project partner Western Rivers Conservancy is assembling conservation corridors along seventeen river miles in the Sandy basin including over 5,000 acres of land for the benefit of fish, wildlife and people. This major new conservation and recreation area is located twenty-five miles from downtown Portland, OR, which is the state's largest population center. Land acquisition will complement project partner Portland General Electric's dismantling of two hydroelectric dams in this important salmon and steelhead bearing river system.

In addition to providing significant new outdoor recreation opportunities adjacent to a rapidly expanding metropolitan area, the project will conserve and restore key habitat for Sandy River salmon and steelhead. Four stocks of Sandy River salmon and steelhead have been listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. Coupling conservation of important aquatic and riparian habitat with dam removal will provide the best chance to recover the threatened Sandy River fishery.

**7. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?**

Yes, this is a multi-year project. Since 2001, \$10.8 million has been appropriated to the BLM for Sandy River acquisitions. Nineteen properties totaling 2,418 acres have been conveyed to the public, protecting over nine miles of riverlands. Western Rivers Conservancy aims to acquire another 2,600 acres of land along 6 miles of river and convey those properties to the BLM.

**7a. If yes, please provide fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.**

LWCF FY01: \$ 1,250,000;  
FY02: \$ 3,000,000;  
FY03: \$ 2,500,000;  
FY04: \$ 1,000,000;  
FY05: \$ 1,000,000;  
FY06: \$ 1,600,000; and,  
FY08: \$ 480,000.  
Total = \$10,830,000

**8. Federal agency and account from which funds are requested (Please be specific – e.g. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account):** BLM - Land & Water Conservation Fund - Sandy River/Oregon National Historic Trail

**9. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?**

As a wild, glacial river in the very backyard of the Portland metropolitan area, the Sandy is remarkable in many ways. Congress has designated two portions of the Sandy as National Wild and Scenic corridors, the upper 12.4 miles within the National Forest and the lower 12.5 miles between Dodge and Dabney Parks. Its biggest tributary, the Salmon, is also a National Wild and Scenic River. Three of the river's principle tributaries, the Bull Run, the Salmon and the upper Sandy, originate in federal Wilderness Areas.

The Sandy has the highest percentage of glacial melt of any Oregon river. As a result, its waters are cold and turbid, which is highly favorable for salmon and steelhead. The Sandy supports runs of winter and summer steelhead, coho salmon, fall and spring Chinook and coastal cutthroat trout. However, riverfront development, logging and road building have taken a major toll on the Sandy River fishery. All four Sandy River salmon and steelhead runs are now listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Sandy River was once a major producer of salmon and steelhead, and the river still supports one of the largest sport fishery industries in Oregon. Recovery of this fishery is important to remove the runs from the Endangered Species List and maintain the strong economic benefits of the sport fishing industry.

Portland General Electric's dismantling of its two dams in 2007 and 2008 signifies one of the largest dam-removals in the nation's history. Removal of the dams makes the Sandy

free-flowing from its glacial headwaters to the Columbia River. The Sandy enters the Columbia downstream of Bonneville Dam, meaning dam removal has created a new, completely free-flowing river system in the lower Columbia basin.

This initiative is a giant step toward permanently conserving the Sandy River system for fish, wildlife and recreation. The new refuges being created will fill crucial gaps in the greater mosaic of land and river protection that includes federal and state Wild and Scenic River designations, Wilderness Areas, public parks, private preserves and minimum stream flow requirements. PGE's removal of dams and diversions opens the way to restore wild salmon and steelhead runs that were once among the strongest on the Pacific coast. These actions will greatly help federal agencies recover federally-listed fish runs and improve the BLM's ability to provide recreation opportunities to a large number of citizens. The proposed acquisitions will also provide greater management consistency in the Sandy River basin and improve the BLM's ability to manage the Sandy River resources.

**10. Have you requested funding for this project from other Members of Congress? If so, who?** Oregon Senator Ron Wyden and Oregon Senator Jeff Merkely

**11. Funding Details:**

**a. Total project cost (all funding sources and all years):** \$22,180,000

**b. Amount being requested for this project in Fiscal Year 2010:** \$3,850,000

**c. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please provide specific dollar amount or percentage.)**

N/A

**d. Do you expect to request federal funding in future years for this project?**

LWCF FY11: \$2,000,000;

FY12: \$2,000,000; and,

FY13: \$2,000,000.

Total = \$6,000,000

**e. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project in FY 2010. (e.g. salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):** \$3.85 million for land acquisition

**f. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project:**

The Sandy River Basin Watershed Council, with many local stakeholders, has given Western Rivers Conservancy its resounding support for this project. Letters of support have come from Gov. Kulongoski, Former Gov. Kitzhaber, State Sen. Rick Metsger, Oregon Trout, and the Oregon Wetlands Joint Venture.

The BLM and the U.S. Forest Service both strongly support the proposed acquisitions, as well as the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Clackamas County and the City of Portland Bureau of Water Works. The BLM State Office considers acquisitions along the Sandy to be a top priority and has requested funding from the President's budget.

**g. Is this project scalable? (i.e. if partial funding is awarded, will the organization be able to use the funds in FY 2010?):**

The project can be completed in phases with funding appropriated over successive years.

Please return this form no later than February 13, 2009 (via email) to:

[appropriations.blumenauer@mail.house.gov](mailto:appropriations.blumenauer@mail.house.gov)